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Geographic Attribute File, Reference Guide

Census year 2011



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Note of appreciation

Canada owes the success of its statistical system to a long-standing partnership between Statistics Canada, the citizens of Canada, its businesses, governments and other institutions. Accurate and timely statistical information could not be produced without their continued cooperation and goodwill.

What's new?

- Effective February 3, 2011, the term 'population centre' has replaced the term 'urban area.' Population centres are classified into one of three groups based on the size of their population. For more information, see the note entitled *From urban areas to population centres* (www.statcan.gc.ca/subjects-sujets/standard-norme/sgc-cgt/urban-urbain-eng.htm).
- Three attributes have been added to the 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File:
 - CMAuid: Uniquely identifies a census metropolitan area or census agglomeration.
 - POPCTRRRAuid: Population centre and rural area unique identifier. Uniquely identifies a population centre and rural area.
 - POPCTRRRAclass: Population centre and rural area class. Distinguishes between small population centres, medium population centres, large urban population centres and rural areas.
- For the 2011 Census, boundaries of designated places (DPLs) may cross census subdivision (CSD) boundaries.
- The 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File is available for free download from the Statistics Canada website (www.statcan.gc.ca).
- The 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File is now available in Excel format (.xlsx), in addition to ASCII format (.txt).

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1. About this guide

This reference guide is intended for users of the 2011 Geographic Attribute File. The guide provides an overview of the file, the general methodology used to create it, and important technical information for users.

A record layout is provided in section 4, Technical specifications. Users of the 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File in an ASCII format (.txt) can refer to the record layout to identify the order and logical record length of each variable in the file. The variables appear in the same order within the Excel format file (.xlsx), though the variables are set into separate columns.

Section 5, Data quality, provides information for users to evaluate the suitability of the data for a particular application.

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2. Overview

The 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File contains information at the dissemination block level, based on 2011 Census standard geographic areas. The data available include population counts, dwelling counts, and land area. In addition, the 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File contains higher level standard geographic codes, names and, where applicable, types and classes. Data for higher level standard geographic areas can be derived by aggregating dissemination block level data. The dissemination area representative point coordinates are also included in the 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File.

This version of the Geographic Attribute File is a dissemination block (DB) level dataset which also includes data for the following 2011 Census standard geographic areas:

- province and territory (PR)
- economic region (ER)
- census division (CD)
- census consolidated subdivision (CCS)
- census subdivision (CSD)
- designated place (DPL)
- federal electoral district (FED) (2003 Representation Order)
- census metropolitan area (CMA), census agglomeration (CA) and census metropolitan influenced zone (MIZ)
- census tract (CT)
- population centre (POPCTR) and rural area (RA)
- dissemination area (DA)

How to cite this guide

Geographic Attribute File, Reference Guide, 2011 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 92-151-G.

How to cite this product

Geographic Attribute File, 2011 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 92-151-X.

3. About this product

Purpose of the product

The 2011 Geographic Attribute File is a dataset at the dissemination block level that also contains the complete set of 2011 Census geographic units, their attributes and population and dwelling counts. The purpose of the file is to provide users the ability to aggregate the dissemination blocks to all geographic levels, the complete geographic hierarchy.

Definitions and concepts

Geographic terms and concepts are briefly defined in the glossary (Appendix A). More details can be found in the *2011 Census Dictionary* (Catalogue no. 98-301-X) and in the *2011 Illustrated Glossary* (Catalogue no. 92-195-X). Supplementary information is provided in the appendices.

A dissemination block, the basic geographic level used to create the Geographic Attribute File, is an area bounded on all sides by roads and/or boundary of standard geographic areas. The dissemination block is the smallest standard geographic area for which census population and dwelling count data are available.

Content

The 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File contains all the 2011 Census dissemination blocks and their selected attributes, such as population and dwelling counts, land area, standard geographic areas unique identifiers and the corresponding dissemination areas' representative point coordinates.

Geographic unique identifiers

Geographic unique identifiers consist of a set of unique numbers that are used to identify and access individual 2011 Census standard geographic areas for the purpose of data storage, retrieval and display.

The systematic assignment of numeric codes to provinces and territories, census divisions and census subdivisions is described within the Standard Geographical Classification. This classification system is a hierarchical coding system that provides a unique identifier for each level within the geographic hierarchy. This coding system is developed by Statistics Canada and approved by provincial authorities. More details can be found in the *Standard Geographical Classification (SGC), volume I – Statistical Area Classification – Variants of SGC* (Catalogue no. 12-571-X).

Census consolidated subdivision unique identifiers are derived from the component census subdivisions. Census consolidated subdivision unique identifiers coincide with the census subdivision component with the largest land area within a census consolidated subdivision.

The source of the geographic unique identifiers of federal electoral districts is the 2003 Representation Order, Elections Canada. All other geographic unique identifiers are developed by Statistics Canada.

Within the 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File, geographic unique identifiers are a concatenation of geographic codes that uniquely identify 2011 Census standard geographic areas. For example, each dissemination area is assigned a four-digit code that is unique within a census division. In order to uniquely identify each dissemination area, the four-digit dissemination area code is preceded by the two-digit province or territory code and the two-

digit census division code. This eight-digit concatenated code is referred to as the dissemination area unique identifier.

Hierarchy of standard geographic areas

The 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File includes population centres as parts of provinces. For the 2011 Census, there are five population centres that cross provincial boundaries:

- Campbellton (New Brunswick/Quebec)
- Hawkesbury (Quebec/Ontario)
- Ottawa - Gatineau (Quebec/Ontario)
- Flin Flon (Manitoba/Saskatchewan)
- Lloydminster (Saskatchewan/Alberta)

If users of the 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File generate a list of all population centres located in the province of Manitoba, for example, only the Manitoba portion of the Flin Flon population centre will be included on the list. The portion of the Flin Flon population centre located in the province of Saskatchewan will be excluded.

The 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File also includes census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations as parts of provinces. For the 2011 Census, there is one census metropolitan area and three census agglomerations that cross provincial boundaries:

- Census Agglomeration of Campbellton (New Brunswick/Quebec)
- Census Agglomeration of Hawkesbury (Quebec/Ontario)
- Census Metropolitan Area of Ottawa - Gatineau (Quebec/Ontario)
- Census Agglomeration of Lloydminster (Saskatchewan/Alberta)

If users of the 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File generate a list of all census agglomerations located in the province of New Brunswick, for example, only the New Brunswick portion of the Campbellton census agglomeration will be included on the list. The portion of the Campbellton census agglomeration located in the province of Quebec will be excluded.

2011 Census population and private dwellings

The population and dwelling counts contained within the Geographic Attribute File are from the 2011 Census. The counts for a particular geographic area represent the number of people whose usual place of residence is in that area, regardless of where they happened to be on Census Day, May 10, 2011.

2011 Census land area

Land area is the area in square kilometres of the land-based portions of 2011 Census standard geographic areas. The land area data contained within the 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File may or may not be consistent with land area data provided by other sources. Land area is calculated using ArcGIS® software for the sole purpose of calculating population density.

The data are derived from the Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI), including selected hydrographic polygon layers. The Lambert conformal conic projection is transformed to the

Albers equal-area conic projection, since the property of equal area is appropriate for calculating land area. The same projection parameters (two standard parallels, central meridian and latitude of projection origin) are used for each province or territory.

Land area data for 2011 Census standard geographic areas reflect the boundaries in effect on January 1, 2011 (the geographic reference date for the 2011 Census of Canada).

2011 Census incompletely enumerated Indian reserves and Indian settlements flag

In 2011, there were a total of 31 Indian reserves and Indian settlements that were 'incompletely enumerated.' For these reserves or settlements, enumeration was either not permitted or was interrupted before it could be completed, or enumeration was not possible because of natural events (specifically forest fires in Northern Ontario).

Compared to previous censuses, there was a decrease in the number of band councils that did not give permission to enter their territory to conduct the census, from 18 Indian reserves and Indian settlements in 2006 to 14 in 2011.

There were 13 Indian reserves and Indian settlements where enumeration was not possible as a result of forest fires in Northern Ontario at the time of census collection. Collection for these communities was done at a later time. While the data are not included in the 2011 Census tabulations, it is expected that separate special tables showing data for these communities will be made available at a later date, subject to data quality evaluation.

The 2011 Census population and dwelling counts are not available for the 31 incompletely enumerated Indian reserves and Indian settlements, and are not included in 2011 Census tabulations. Data for geographic areas containing one or more of these reserves and settlements are noted accordingly. Because of the missing data, users are cautioned that for the affected geographic areas, comparisons (e.g., percentage change) between 2006 and 2011 are not precise. The impact of the missing data for higher-level geographic areas (Canada, provinces, census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations) is very small. However, the impact can be significant for smaller areas, where the incompletely enumerated Indian reserves and Indian settlements account for a higher proportion of the population.

Positional data

The 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File contains the representative point coordinates for the dissemination areas, weighted by population data. The representative point coordinates were reprojected from Lambert Conformal Conic into latitude and longitude coordinates (NAD83) using the ArcGIS® ArcCatalog (Feature-Project) tool.

The Lambert Conformal Conic map projection is widely used for general maps of Canada at small scales and is the most common map projection used at Statistics Canada.

The 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File representative point coordinates are in the following geographic representation:

Datum:	NAD83
Coordinates:	Longitude/Latitude

The North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83) is an adjustment of the 1927 datum (NAD27) that reflects a higher accuracy of geodetic surveying.

The geographic coordinate system is the primary locational reference system for the earth. This system provides for the unique statement of location for features such as points, lines and polygons.

Limitations

Not applicable

Comparison to other products/versions

The 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File contains geographic unique identifiers, names, and where applicable, types or classes applicable to the 2011 Census.

The 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File includes all the dissemination blocks, while the Dissemination Block Cartographic Boundary File does not include the dissemination blocks located entirely within coastal waters.

Using with other products

The 2011 Census standard geographic areas in the 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File can be linked to other 2011 Census products using the geographic unique identifiers.

The 2011 Census dissemination block unique identifiers included in the 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File can be used with the 2011 Census Correspondence Files (Catalogue no. 92-156-X) to identify corresponding 2006 Census dissemination blocks. The 2006 dissemination block unique identifiers can then be linked to the 2006 Census Geographic Attribute File (Catalogue no. 92-151-X) or GeoSuite 2006 (Catalogue no. 92-150-X) to retrieve the 2006 Census standard geographic areas and their attributes.

Reference date

Population and dwelling counts

The population and dwelling count data contained within the 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File refer to the 2011 Census of Population which was conducted on May 10, 2011.

Standard geographic areas

The geographic reference date is a date determined by Statistics Canada to finalize the geographic framework for which 2011 Census statistical data are collected, tabulated and reported. The reference date for 2011 Census standard geographic areas is January 1, 2011. More specifically, the census reports data according to the geographic areas (e.g., municipalities and equivalents referred to as census subdivisions) that are in effect on January 1, 2011, provided that Statistics Canada receives the information on the changes by March 1, 2011 (see *2011 Census Dictionary* – Geographic reference date for more details).

4. Technical specifications

Record layouts and data descriptions

Table 4.1 Geographic Attribute File record layout

Position	Size	Type	Attribute name	Description
1	10	Char	DBuid	Uniquely identifies a dissemination block (composed of the 2-digit province or territory unique identifier followed by the 2-digit census division code, the 4-digit dissemination area code and the 2-digit dissemination block code)
11	8	Num	DBpop2011	2011 Census dissemination block population
19	8	Num	DBtdwell2011	2011 Census dissemination block total private dwellings
27	8	Num	DBurdwell2011	2011 Census private dwellings occupied by usual residents
35	13.4	Num	DBarea	2011 Census dissemination block land area
48	1	Char	DB_ir2011	2011 Census Indian reserve refusal flag
49	8	Char	DAuid	Uniquely identifies a dissemination area (composed of the 2-digit province or territory unique identifier followed by the 2-digit census division code and the 4-digit dissemination area code)
57	17.8	Num	DAlamx	Dissemination area representative point x coordinate in Lambert projection
74	17.8	Num	DAlamy	Dissemination area representative point y coordinate in Lambert projection
91	9.6	Num	DAlat	Dissemination area representative point latitude coordinate, in decimal degrees
100	11.6	Num	DAlong	Dissemination area representative point longitude coordinate, in decimal degrees.
111	2	Char	PRuid	Uniquely identifies a province or territory
113	55	Char	PRname	Province or territory name
168	30	Char	PRename	Province or territory name in English
198	30	Char	PRfname	Province or territory name in French
228	10	Char	PReabbr	English abbreviation of the province or territory name
238	10	Char	PRfabbr	French abbreviation of the province or territory name
248	5	Char	FEDuid	Uniquely identifies a federal electoral district (composed of the 2-digit province or territory unique identifier followed by the 3-digit federal electoral district code)
253	85	Char	FEDname	Federal electoral district name
338	4	Char	ERuid	Uniquely identifies an economic region (composed of the 2-digit province or territory unique identifier followed by the 2-digit economic region code)
342	85	Char	ERname	Economic region name
427	4	Char	CDuid	Uniquely identifies a census division (composed of the 2-digit province or territory unique identifier followed by the 2-digit census division code)
431	40	Char	CDname	Census division name
471	3	Char	CDtype	Census division type (see Attribute domain values)
474	7	Char	CSDuid	Uniquely identifies a census subdivision (composed of 2-digit province or territory unique identifier followed by the 2-digit census division code and 3-digit census subdivision code)
481	55	Char	CSDname	Census subdivision name

Table 4.1 Geographic Attribute File record layout (continued)

Position	Size	Type	Attribute name	Description
536	3	Char	CSDtype	Census subdivisions are classified according to designations adopted by provincial, territorial or federal authorities (see Appendix D)
539	1	Char	SACtype	The Statistical Area Classification groups census subdivisions according to whether they are a component of a census metropolitan area, a census agglomeration, a census metropolitan influenced zone or the territories (see Attribute domain values)
540	3	Char	SACcode	The 3-digit Statistical Area Classification code
543	7	Char	CCSuid	Uniquely identifies a census consolidated subdivision (composed of the 2-digit province/territory unique identifier followed by the 2-digit census division code and the 3-digit census consolidated subdivision code)
550	55	Char	CCSname	Census consolidated subdivision name
605	6	Char	DPLuid	Uniquely identifies a designated place (composed of the 2-digit province or territory unique identifier followed by the 4-digit designated place code)
611	85	Char	DPLname	Designated place name
696	3	Char	DPLtype	Designated place type (see Attribute domain values)
699	5	Char	CMApuid	Uniquely identifies the provincial or territorial part of a census metropolitan area and census agglomeration (composed of the 2-digit province or territory unique identifier followed by the 3-digit census metropolitan area or census agglomeration area unique identifier)
704	3	Char	CMAuid	Uniquely identifies a census metropolitan area or census agglomeration
707	100	Char	CMAname	Census metropolitan area or census agglomeration name
807	1	Char	CMAtype	A one-character field identifying whether the unit is a census metropolitan area, a tracted census agglomeration or a non-tracted census agglomeration (see Attribute domain values)
808	10.2	Char	CTuid	Uniquely identifies a census tract within a census metropolitan area or census agglomeration (composed of the 3-digit census metropolitan area or census agglomeration code followed by the 7-character census tract name)
818	4	Char	CTcode	Uniquely identifies a census tract
822	7.2	Char	CTname	Every census tract is assigned a 7.2-character numeric 'name' (including leading zeros, a decimal point and trailing zeros)
829	6	Char	POPCTRRAPuid	Uniquely identifies the provincial parts of each population centre and rural area (composed of the 2-digit province or territory unique identifier followed by the 4-digit population centre unique identifier)
835	4	Char	POPCTRRAPuid	Uniquely identifies a population centre and rural area
839	100	Char	POPCTRRAname	Population centre and rural area name
939	1	Char	POPCTRRAtype	Population centre and rural area type (see Attribute domain values)
940	1	Char	POPCTRRAcass	Distinguishes between small population centres, medium population centres, large urban population centres and rural areas (see Attribute domain values)

Attribute domain values

Census division type (CDtype)

The following is the list of the different types of census divisions.

CDtype	CD description
CDR	Census division / Division de recensement
CT	County / Comté
CTY	County
DIS	District
DM	District municipality
MRC	Municipalité régionale de comté
RD	Regional district
REG	Region
RM	Regional municipality
TÉ	Territoire équivalent
TER	Territory / Territoire
UC	United counties

Table 4.2 Census division types by province and territory, 2011 Census

Census division type		Canada	NL	PEI	NS	NB	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Y.T.	NWT.	NL
CDR	Census division / Division de recensement	85	11	...	...	...	5	9	23	18	19	...	...	...	...
CT	County / Comté	15	...	...	...	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
CTY	County	41	...	3	18	...	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
DIS	District	10	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
DM	District municipality	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
MRC	Municipalité régionale de comté	81	...	...	...	...	81	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
RD	Regional district	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28	...	...	...
REG	Region	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	6	3
RM	Regional municipality	6	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TÉ	Territoire équivalent	12	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TER	Territory / Territoire	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
UC	United counties	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total		293	11	3	18	15	98	49	23	18	19	29	1	6	3

... not applicable

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census of Population.

Census subdivision type (CSDtype)

Census subdivisions are classified according to designations adopted by provincial, territorial or federal authorities.

CSDtype	CSD description	CSDtype	CSD description
C	City / Cité	RCR	Rural community / Communauté rurale
CC	Chartered community	RDA	Regional district electoral area
CG	Community government	RG	Region
CN	Crown colony / Colonie de la couronne	RGM	Regional municipality
COM	Community	RM	Rural municipality
CT	Canton (municipalité de)	RV	Resort village
CU	Cantons unis (municipalité de)	S-É	Indian settlement / Établissement indien
CV	City / Ville	SA	Special area
CY	City	SC	Subdivision of county municipality / Subdivision municipalité de comté
DM	District municipality	SÉ	Settlement / Établissement
HAM	Hamlet	SET	Settlement
ID	Improvement district	SG	Self-government / Autonomie gouvernementale
IGD	Indian government district	SM	Specialized municipality
IM	Island municipality	SNO	Subdivision of unorganized / Subdivision non organisée
IRI	Indian reserve / Réserve indienne	SV	Summer village
LGD	Local government district	T	Town
LOT	Township and royalty	TC	Terres réservées aux Cris
M	Municipality / Municipalité	TI	Terre inuite
MD	Municipal district	TK	Terres réservées aux Naskapis
MÉ	Municipalité	TL	Teslin land
MU	Municipality	TP	Township
NH	Northern hamlet	TV	Town / Ville
NL	Nisga'a land	V	Ville
NO	Unorganized / Non organisé	VC	Village cri
NV	Northern village	VK	Village naskapi
P	Parish / Paroisse (municipalité de)	VL	Village
PE	Paroisse (municipalité de)	VN	Village nordique

Census metropolitan area and census agglomeration type (CMAtype)

The types associated with the census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations include:

CMAtype	CMA description
B	Census metropolitan area (CMA)
D	Census agglomeration (CA) with no census tracts
G	Strong metropolitan influenced zone (MIZ)
H	Moderate metropolitan influenced zone (MIZ)
I	Weak metropolitan influenced zone (MIZ)
J	No metropolitan influenced zone
K	Census agglomeration (CA) with census tracts
L	Territories, outside census agglomeration (CA)

Table 4.3 Census metropolitan area and census agglomeration types by province and territory, 2011 Census

Census metropolitan area and census agglomeration type		Canada	NL	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Y.T.	N.W.T.	N.M.T.
B	census metropolitan area	34	1	0	1	2	6	15	1	2	2	4	0	0	0
D	census agglomeration with no census tracts	102	3	2	4	4	22	24	4	7	13	17	1	1	0
K	census agglomeration with census tracts	15	0	0	0	1	3	4	0	0	3	4	0	0	0
Total		151	4	2	5	7	31	43	5	9	18	25	1	1	0

Note: includes provincial parts.

Census metropolitan influenced zones are considered as residual values. Each province has the values G, H, I and J. Each territory has the value L.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census of Population.

Statistical Area Classification type (SACtype)

The Statistical Area Classification type is a one-digit code that identifies whether a census subdivision is a component of a census metropolitan area (CMA), a census agglomeration (CA), a census metropolitan influenced zone (MIZ) or located in the territories.

SACtype SACtype description

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Census subdivision within census metropolitan area |
| 2 | Census subdivision within census agglomeration with at least one census tract |
| 3 | Census subdivision within census agglomeration having no census tracts |
| 4 | Census subdivision outside of census metropolitan area and census agglomeration area having strong metropolitan influence |
| 5 | Census subdivision outside of census metropolitan area and census agglomeration area having moderate metropolitan influence |
| 6 | Census subdivision outside of census metropolitan area and census agglomeration area having weak metropolitan influence |
| 7 | Census subdivision outside of census metropolitan area and census agglomeration area having no metropolitan influence |
| 8 | Census subdivision within the territories, outside of census agglomeration |

Table 4.4 Statistical Area Classification values by province and territory, 2011 Census

Statistical Area Classification values		Canada	NL	P.E.I.	NS	NB	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Y.T.	N.W.T.	N.M.
1	CSD within CMA	469	13	0	5	31	157	92	12	41	44	74	0	0	0
2	CSD within CA with at least one CT	93	0	0	0	12	13	16	0	0	11	41	0	0	0
3	CSD within CA having no CTs	367	15	23	18	33	68	40	8	25	33	96	7	1	0
4	CSD outside of CMA or CA area having strong metropolitan influence	594	30	32	3	32	237	95	17	62	52	34	0	0	0
5	CSD outside of CMA or CA area having moderate metropolitan influence	1,441	134	48	23	91	490	143	61	248	111	92	0	0	0
6	CSD outside of CMA or CA area having weak metropolitan influence	976	75	6	39	56	145	87	116	208	106	138	0	0	0
7	CSD outside of CMA or CA area having no metropolitan influence	1,212	109	4	11	18	175	101	73	375	78	268	0	0	0
8	CSD within the territories, outside of CA	101	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	40	31
Total		5,253	376	113	99	273	1,285	574	287	959	435	743	37	41	31

CSD census subdivision
 CMA census metropolitan area
 CA census agglomeration
 CT census tract

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census of Population.

SACCODE

The Statistical Area Classification code is a three-digit code that groups census subdivisions according to whether they are a component of a census metropolitan area, a census agglomeration or a census metropolitan influenced zone (MIZ). The MIZ categories, which denote the degree of influence that the CMAs and CAs have on these zones, are: strong (996), moderate (997), weak (998), no influence (999), or located in the territories (000) where the Statistical Area Classification is not applicable.

SACCODE	SACCODE description
000	Territories, outside of CA
001-995	CMA or CA
996	Strong
997	Moderate
998	Weak
999	No influence

More details can be found in the *Standard Geographical Classification (SGC), volume I – Statistical Area Classification – Variants of SGC* (Catalogue no. 12-571-X).

Population centre and rural area type (POPCTRRAtype)

The following is the list of the population centre and rural area types.

- 1 Core inside of a census metropolitan area or census agglomeration
- 2 Fringe inside of a census metropolitan area or census agglomeration
- 3 Rural area inside of a census metropolitan area or census agglomeration
- 4 Population centre outside of a census metropolitan area or census agglomeration
- 5 Rural area outside of a census metropolitan area or census agglomeration
- 6 Secondary core inside of a census metropolitan area or census agglomeration

Table 4.5 Population centre type values by province and territory, 2011 Census

Population centre type values	Canada	NL	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Y.T.	N.W.T.	Nfld.
1 Core inside CMA or CA	151	4	2	5	7	31	43	5	9	18	25	1	1	...
2 Fringe inside CMA or CA	164	2	1	7	4	34	68	4	10	16	18	...	...	...
4 POPCTR outside CMA or CA	607	24	4	25	22	172	146	35	44	70	56	...	2	7
6 Secondary core inside CMA or CA	25	...	...	...	...	6	13	...	...	5	1	...	...	...
Total	947	30	7	37	33	243	270	44	63	109	100	1	3	7

... not applicable

CMA census metropolitan area

CA census agglomeration

POPCTR population centre

Note: includes provincial parts.

Rural areas are residual values. Therefore, the values 3 and 5 are not included in the population centres count.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census of Population.

Population centre and rural area size classes (POPCTRRAClass)

The following is the list of the population centre and rural area size classes.

- 1 Rural area
- 2 Small population centre (population 1,000 to 29,999)
- 3 Medium population centre (population 30,000 to 99,999)
- 4 Large urban population centre (population 100,000 or greater)

Table 4.6 Population centre size class values by province and territory, 2011 Census

Population centre size class values	Canada	NL	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Y.T.	N.W.T.	Nfld.
2 Small population centre	861	29	6	35	30	224	237	42	59	101	87	1	3	7
3 Medium population centre	54	...	1	1	2	13	19	1	2	6	9	...	...	...
4 Large urban population centre	32	1	...	1	1	6	14	1	2	2	4	...	...	...
Total	947	30	7	37	33	243	270	44	63	109	100	1	3	7

... not applicable

Note: includes provincial parts.

Rural area is a residual value. It is comprised of all areas located outside population centres. Each province and territory has one and only one rural area value.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census of Population

Designated place type (DPLtype)

The following is a list of the types of designated places.

CFA	Class IV area
DMU	Dissolved municipality
DPL	Designated place
IRI	Indian reserve / Réserve indienne
IST	Island trust
LNC	Localité non constituée
LSB	Local service board
LSD	Local service district
LUD	Local urban district
MDI	Municipalité dissoute
MDP	Municipal defined places
MET	Métis settlement
NCM	Northern community
NVL	Nisga'a village
OHM	Organized hamlet
SE	Aboriginal settlement
UNP	Unincorporated place
UUC	Unincorporated urban centre

Table 4.7 Designated place types by province and territory, 2011 Census

Designated place type		Canada	NL	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Y.T.	N.W.T.	N.M.
CFA	Class IV area	65	...	...	65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
DMU	Dissolved municipality	85	...	...	...	...	...	44	2	37	2	...	...	...	...
DPL	Designated place	183	183	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
IRI	Indian reserve/ Réserve indienne	53	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53	...	...	...
IST	Island trust	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	...	...	...
LNC	Localité non constituée	12	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
LSB	Local service board	44	...	...	...	...	...	44	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
LSD	Local service district	167	...	...	...	167	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
LUD	Local urban district	36	...	...	...	...	...	...	36	...	...	...	...	...	...
MDI	Municipalité dissoute	94	...	...	...	...	94	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
MDP	Municipal defined places	26	...	...	...	...	...	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
MET	Métis settlement	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	...
NCM	Northern community	46	...	...	...	...	...	...	46	...	...	...	...	...	...
NVL	Nisga'a village	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...
OHM	Organized hamlet	157	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	157	...	...	...	...	...
SE	Aboriginal settlement	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
UNP	Unincorporated place	484	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	249	235	...	...	...
UUC	Unincorporated urban centre	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total		1,507	183	0	65	167	106	114	97	194	281	319	1	0	0

... not applicable

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census of Population

File specifications

The 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File size is approximately 460 MB in ASCII format (.txt) and 100 MB in Excel format (.xlsx).

Software formats

This reference guide does not provide details on specific software packages that are available for use with the 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File in ASCII (.txt) format. Users are advised to contact the appropriate software vendor for information.

The 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File in Excel (.xlsx) format is designed to be used with Microsoft Office Excel 2007 or a more recent version.

System requirements

Not applicable

Installation instructions

Not applicable

File naming convention

The 2011 Geographic Attribute File follows a standard naming convention. The file name includes: Census year_catalogue number_file format. The 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File, in ASCII (.txt) and Excel (.xlsx) formats are named as follows:

ASCII format: 2011_92-151_XBB_TXT.txt
Excel format: 2011_92-151_XBB_XLSX.xlsx

5. Data quality

Data quality elements provide information on the fitness-for-use of a dataset by describing why, when, how the data are created, and how accurate the data are. The quality elements include an overview reporting on the lineage, positional accuracy, attribute accuracy, logical consistency and completeness. This information is provided to users for all geographic data products disseminated for the census.

Lineage

Lineage describes the history of the data, including descriptions of the source material from which the data were derived, and the methods of derivation. It also contains the dates of the source material, and all transformations involved in producing the file.

General methodology

The National Geographic Database (NGD) is a joint Statistics Canada-Elections Canada initiative to develop and maintain a spatial database which serves the needs of both organizations. The focus of the NGD is the continual improvement of quality and currency of spatial coverage using updates from provinces, territories and local sources. The native file used for the creation of the 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File resides on Statistics Canada's Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) which was derived directly from data stored in the NGD environment.

In creating the 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File, all dissemination blocks were extracted from the SDI along with data for the higher level standard geographic areas in which dissemination blocks are located.

Geographic areas, unique identifiers, names, types and classes

Statistics Canada disseminates 2011 Census statistical data by standard geographic area. These areas are either administrative or statistical.

Administrative areas are defined, with a few exceptions, by federal and provincial statutes. These include:

- Canada (CAN)
- province and territory (PR)
- federal electoral district (FED) (2003 Representation Order)
- census division (CD)
- census subdivision (CSD)
- designated place (DPL)

Statistical areas are defined by Statistics Canada and are used to collect and disseminate Census statistical data. These include:

- economic region (ER)
- census consolidated subdivision (CCS)
- census metropolitan area (CMA), census agglomeration (CA) and census metropolitan influenced zone (MIZ)
- census tract (CT)
- population centre (POPCTR) and rural area (RA)
- dissemination area (DA)
- dissemination block (DB)

Geographic names refer to the names given to standard geographic areas. Geographic names, however, are not given to all standard geographic areas. Named standard geographic areas include provinces and territories, economic regions, census divisions, census consolidated subdivisions, census subdivisions, census metropolitan areas, census agglomerations, designated places, populations centres and federal electoral districts. Although census tracts do not have alphabetic names, they do have numeric names consisting of seven characters, which include leading zeros, a decimal point and trailing zeros.

For provinces and territories, the 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File contains both English and French names. The sources used for the names of the provinces and territories are the statutes of the respective provinces and territories.

The source of the geographic names of federal electoral districts is the 2003 Representation Order, Elections Canada.

For those census divisions and census subdivisions that respect the administrative fabric within the provinces and territories, the sources of the names and types are the provincial and territorial governments. Statistics Canada receives input from the provincial and territorial governments concerning all boundary, name and type changes to their respective municipal structures. The 2011 Census reflects the administrative structure within provinces and territories that was in effect on January 1, 2011, the geographic reference date of the 2011 Census.

Where no provincial or territorial administrative areas exist, census divisions and census subdivisions and their associated names and types are created in consultation with provincial and territorial authorities. The names of Indian reserves and settlements are provided to Statistics Canada by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (formerly Indian and Northern Affairs Canada).

For census consolidated subdivisions, names are derived from their component census subdivisions. Census consolidated subdivision names coincide with the name of the census subdivision component with the largest land area within the consolidated census subdivision.

Census metropolitan area and census agglomeration names are usually based on the largest population centre(s) within the census metropolitan area or census agglomeration.

Information on the delineation criteria for 2011 Census standard geographic areas as well as the sources of geographic names is provided in the *2011 Census Dictionary* (Catalogue no. 98-301-X) and the 2011 Census Illustrated Glossary (Catalogue no. 92-195-X).

Positional accuracy

Positional accuracy refers to the absolute and relative accuracy of the positions of geographic features. Absolute accuracy is the closeness of the coordinate values in a dataset to values accepted as or being true. Relative accuracy is the closeness of the relative positions of features to their respective relative positions accepted as or being true. Descriptions of positional accuracy include the quality of the final file or product after all transformations.

The only positional data contained within the 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File are the representative point coordinates of dissemination areas. Within Statistics Canada's Spatial Data Infrastructure, representative point coordinates were generated using ArcGIS® software in conjunction with dissemination area boundaries. The most detailed hydrography available was used in identifying cartographic boundaries and calculating representative point coordinates in Statistics Canada's native format. Efforts were made to ensure that representative point coordinates do not fall in water, where possible. The representative point coordinates were initially calculated based on the Lambert Conformal Conic projection; they were then transformed to latitude and longitude coordinates.

Attribute accuracy

Attribute accuracy refers to the accuracy of the quantitative and qualitative information attached to each feature (such as population counts for dissemination blocks, census subdivision unique identifiers, names and types).

The geographic unique identifiers, names, types and classes contained within the 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File, along with the relationships between all standard geographic areas, were verified against Statistics Canada's Spatial Data Infrastructure. The hierarchy of standard geographic units for dissemination, 2011 Census (Appendix B) illustrates the relationships between all geographic units.

Blank fields are displayed within the 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File where population and dwelling counts have been suppressed due to incompletely enumerated Indian reserves and Indian settlements. Population counts for Indian reserve refusal census subdivisions are not included in any census counts, therefore the blank population at the census subdivision, dissemination area and dissemination block levels are consistent with the 2011 Census statistical data.

2011 Census land area

Land area data for 2011 Census standard geographic areas reflect the boundaries in effect on January 1, 2011, the geographic reference date for the 2011 Census.

The data were derived from the Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI), including selected hydrographic polygon layers. The Lambert Conformal Conic projection was transformed to the Albers equal-area conic projection, since the property of equal area is appropriate for calculating land area. The same projection parameters (two standard parallels, central meridian and latitude of projection origin) were used for each province or territory. Land area was calculated using ArcGIS® software.

Users should note that even when the boundaries of standard geographic areas did not change between the 2006 and 2011 Censuses, calculated land areas may differ due to geometry shifts. Geometric shifts are caused by a change in the underlying land and hydrography features and by improvements in the absolute positional accuracy within areas.

Logical consistency

Logical consistency describes the fidelity of relationships encoded in the data structure of the digital spatial data.

Internal consistency

Consistency between data at various geographic levels was verified. Verification procedures ensured that counts at lower geographic levels sum to higher geographic levels.

Population and dwelling count data

The 2011 Census population and dwelling count data were verified to ensure that they sum properly to all higher level 2011 Census standard geographic areas.

Consistency with other products

The population and dwelling count data in the 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File are consistent with those disseminated in other 2011 Census products.

Completeness

Completeness refers to the degree to which geographic features, their attributes and their relationships are included or omitted in a dataset. It also includes information on selection criteria, definitions used, and other relevant mapping rules.

The 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File contains one record for each of the 493,345 dissemination blocks. It also contains the appropriate geographic units for each standard geographic level. Appendix C indicates the number of geographic units by province and territory for the 2011 Census. These data were verified within the 2011 Census Geographic Attribute File.

Appendix A Glossary

Adjusted counts

'Adjusted counts' refer to previous census population and dwelling counts that were adjusted (i.e., recompiled) to reflect current census boundaries, when a boundary change occurs between the two censuses.

Block-face

A block-face is one side of a street between two consecutive features intersecting that street. The features can be other streets or boundaries of standard geographic areas.

Block-faces are used for generating block-face representative points, which in turn are used for geocoding and census data extraction when the street and address information are available.

Cartographic boundary files

Cartographic boundary files (CBFs) portray the boundaries of standard geographic areas together with the shoreline around Canada. Selected inland lakes and rivers are available as supplementary layers.

Census agricultural region

Census agricultural regions (CARs) are composed of groups of adjacent census divisions. In Saskatchewan, census agricultural regions are made up of groups of adjacent census consolidated subdivisions, but these groups do not necessarily respect census division boundaries.

Census consolidated subdivision

A census consolidated subdivision (CCS) is a group of adjacent census subdivisions. Generally, the smaller, more densely-populated census subdivisions (towns, villages, etc.) are combined with the surrounding, larger, more rural census subdivision, in order to create a geographic level between the census subdivision and the census division.

Census division

Census division (CD) is the general term for provincially legislated areas (such as county, *municipalité régionale de comté* and regional district) or their equivalents. Census divisions are intermediate geographic areas between the province/territory level and the municipality (census subdivision).

Census metropolitan area and census agglomeration

A census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA) is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core, as measured by commuting flows derived from previous census place of work data.

If the population of the core of a CA declines below 10,000, the CA is retired. However, once an area becomes a CMA, it is retained as a CMA even if its total population declines below 100,000 or the population of its core falls below 50,000. Small population centres with a population count of less than 10,000 are called fringe. All areas inside the CMA or CA that are not population centres are rural areas.

When a CA has a core of at least 50,000, it is subdivided into census tracts. Census tracts are maintained for the CA even if the population of the core subsequently falls below 50,000. All CMAs are subdivided into census tracts.

Census metropolitan influenced zone

The census metropolitan influenced zone (MIZ) is a concept that geographically differentiates the area of Canada outside census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and census agglomerations (CAs). Census subdivisions (CSDs) within provinces that are outside CMAs and CAs are assigned to one of four categories according to the degree of influence (strong, moderate, weak or no influence) that the CMAs or CAs have on them. CSDs within the territories that are outside CAs are assigned to a separate category.

Census subdivisions within provinces are assigned to a MIZ category based on the percentage of their resident employed labour force that commutes to work in the core(s) of CMAs or CAs. CSDs with the same degree of influence tend to be clustered. They form zones around CMAs and CAs that progress through the categories from 'strong' to 'no' influence as distance from the CMAs and CAs increases. As many CSDs in the territories are very large and sparsely populated, the commuting flow of the resident employed labour force is unstable. For this reason, CSDs in the territories that are outside CAs are assigned to a separate category that is not based on their commuting flows.

Census subdivision

Census subdivision (CSD) is the general term for municipalities (as determined by provincial/territorial legislation) or areas treated as municipal equivalents for statistical purposes (e.g., Indian reserves, Indian settlements and unorganized territories).

Census tract

Census tracts (CTs) are small, relatively stable geographic areas that usually have a population between 2,500 and 8,000 persons. They are located in census metropolitan areas and in census agglomerations that had a core population of 50,000 or more in the previous census.

A committee of local specialists (for example, planners, health and social workers, and educators) initially delineates census tracts in conjunction with Statistics Canada. Once a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA) has been subdivided into census tracts, the census tracts are maintained even if the core population subsequently declines below 50,000.

Coordinate system

A coordinate system is a reference system based on mathematical rules for specifying positions (locations) on the surface of the earth. The coordinate values can be spherical (latitude and longitude) using angular units of measure such as degrees, minutes and seconds or planar (Universal Transverse Mercator) using linear units such as metres.

Cartographic boundary files, digital boundary files, representative points and road network files are disseminated in latitude/longitude coordinates.

Core, fringe and rural area

The terms 'core,' 'fringe' and 'rural area' replace the terms 'urban core,' 'urban fringe' and 'rural fringe' for the 2011 Census. These terms distinguish between population centres (POPCTRs) and rural areas (RAs) within a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA).

A CMA or CA can have two types of cores: the core and the secondary core. The core is the population centre with the highest population, around which a CMA or a CA is delineated. The core must have a population (based on the previous census) of at least 50,000 persons in the case of a CMA, or at least 10,000 persons in the case of a CA.

The secondary core is a population centre within a CMA that has at least 10,000 persons and was the core of a CA that has been merged with an adjacent CMA.

The term 'fringe' includes all population centres within a CMA or CA that have less than 10,000 persons and are not contiguous with the core or secondary core.

All territory within a CMA or CA that is not classified as a core or fringe is classified as rural area.

Datum

A datum is a geodetic reference system which includes an ellipsoid and an origin against which the latitude and longitude of all other points on the earth's surface are referenced. A datum may often be associated with a particular ellipsoid (mathematical reference model of the earth).

Designated place

A designated place (DPL) is normally a small community or settlement that does not meet the criteria established by Statistics Canada to be a census subdivision (an area with municipal status) or a population centre.

Designated places are created by provinces and territories, in cooperation with Statistics Canada, to provide data for submunicipal areas.

Digital boundary files

Digital boundary files (DBFs) portray the boundaries used for census data collection and, therefore, often extend as straight lines into bodies of water.

Dissemination area

A dissemination area (DA) is a small, relatively stable geographic unit composed of one or more adjacent dissemination blocks. It is the smallest standard geographic area for which all census data are disseminated. DAs cover all the territory of Canada.

Dissemination block

A dissemination block (DB) is an area bounded on all sides by roads and/or boundaries of standard geographic areas. The dissemination block is the smallest geographic area for which population and dwelling counts are disseminated. Dissemination blocks cover all the territory of Canada.

Economic region

An economic region (ER) is a grouping of complete census divisions (CDs) (with one exception in Ontario) created as a standard geographic unit for analysis of regional economic activity.

Ecumene

Ecumene is a term used by geographers to mean inhabited land. It generally refers to land where people have made their permanent home, and to all work areas that are considered occupied and used for agricultural or any other economic purpose. Thus, there can be various types of ecumenes, each having its own unique characteristics (population ecumene, agricultural ecumene, industrial ecumene, etc.).

Federal electoral district

A federal electoral district (FED) is an area represented by a member of the House of Commons. The federal electoral district boundaries used for the 2011 Census are based on the 2003 Representation Order.

Geocoding

Geocoding is the process of assigning geographic identifiers (codes or x,y coordinates) to map features and data records. The resulting geocodes permit data to be linked geographically to a place on the earth.

Households, postal codes^{OM} and place of work data are linked to block-face representative points (coordinates) when the street and address information is available; otherwise, they are linked to dissemination block (DB) representative points. In some cases, postal codes^{OM} and place of work data are linked to dissemination area (DA) representative points when they cannot be linked to DBs. As well, place of work data are linked to census subdivision representative points when the data cannot be linked to DAs.

OM: Postal code is an official mark of Canada Post Corporation.

Geographic code

A geographic code is a numerical identifier assigned to a geographic area. The code is used to identify and access standard geographic areas for the purposes of data storage, retrieval and display.

Geographic reference date

The geographic reference date is a date determined by Statistics Canada for the purpose of finalizing the geographic framework for which census data will be collected, tabulated and reported. For the 2011 Census, the geographic reference date is January 1, 2011.

Geographical region of Canada

The geographical regions of Canada are groupings of provinces and territories established for the purpose of statistical reporting. The six geographical regions of Canada are: Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, Prairies, British Columbia and Territories.

Land area

Land area is the area in square kilometres of the land-based portions of standard geographic areas. Land area data are unofficial and are provided for the sole purpose of calculating population density.

Map projection

A map projection is the process of transforming and representing positions from the earth's three-dimensional curved surface to a two-dimensional (flat) surface. The process is accomplished by a direct geometric projection or by a mathematically derived transformation.

The Lambert conformal conic map projection is widely used for general maps of Canada at small scales and is the most common map projection used at Statistics Canada.

National Geographic Database

The National Geographic Database (NGD) is a shared database between Statistics Canada and Elections Canada. The database contains roads, road names and address ranges. It also includes separate reference layers containing physical and cultural features, such as hydrography and hydrographic names, railroads and power transmission lines.

Place name

'Place name' refers to selected names of active and retired geographic areas as well as names from the Canadian Geographical Names Data Base. Place names include names of census subdivisions (municipalities), designated places and population centres, as well as the names of some local places.

Population centre

A population centre (POPCTR) has a population of at least 1,000 and a population density of 400 persons or more per square kilometre, based on the current census population count. All areas outside population centres are classified as rural areas. Taken together, population centres and rural areas cover all of Canada.

Population centres are classified into three groups, depending on the size of their population:

- small population centres, with a population between 1,000 and 29,999
- medium population centres, with a population between 30,000 and 99,999
- large urban population centres, with a population of 100,000 or more

Population centre population includes all population living in the cores, secondary cores and fringes of census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and census agglomerations (CAs), as well as the population living in population centres outside CMAs and CAs.

Population density

Population density is the number of persons per square kilometre.

Postal code^{OM}

The postal code^{OM} is a six-character code defined and maintained by Canada Post Corporation for the purpose of sorting and delivering mail.

Province or territory

'Province' and 'territory' refer to the major political units of Canada. From a statistical point of view, province and territory are basic areas for which data are tabulated. Canada is divided into 10 provinces and 3 territories.

Reference map

A reference map shows the location of the geographic areas for which census data are tabulated and disseminated. The maps display the boundaries, names and unique identifiers of standard geographic areas, as well as major cultural and physical features, such as roads, railroads, coastlines, rivers and lakes.

Representative point

A representative point is a coordinate point that represents a line or a polygon. The point is centrally located along the line, and centrally located or population weighted in the polygon.

Representative points are generated for block-faces, as well as for selected geographic areas – province/territory (PR), federal electoral district (FED), economic region (ER), census division (CD), census metropolitan area/census agglomeration (CMA/CA), census subdivision (CSD), population centre (POPCTR), designated place (DPL), census tract (CT), dissemination area (DA) and dissemination block (DB).

Households, postal codes^{OM} and place of work data are linked to block-face representative points (coordinates) when the street and address information is available; otherwise, they are linked to dissemination block (DB) representative points. In some cases, postal codes and place of work data are linked to dissemination area (DA) representative points when they cannot be linked to DBs. As well, place of work data are linked to census subdivision (CSD) representative points when the data cannot be linked to DAs.

Road network file

The road network file (RNF) contains streets, street names, types, directions and address ranges. Address ranges are dwelling-based.

Rural area

Rural areas (RAs) include all territory lying outside population centres (POPCTRs). Taken together, population centres and rural areas cover all of Canada.

Rural population includes all population living in rural areas of census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and census agglomerations (CAs), as well as population living in rural areas outside CMAs and CAs.

Spatial Data Infrastructure

The Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) is an internal maintenance database that is not disseminated outside of Statistics Canada. It contains roads, road names and address ranges from the National Geographic Database (NGD), as well as boundary arcs of standard geographic areas that do not follow roads, all in one integrated line layer. The database also includes a related polygon layer consisting of basic blocks (BB; basic blocks are the smallest polygon units in the database, and are formed by the intersection of all roads and the arcs of geographic areas that do not follow roads), boundary layers of standard geographic areas, and derived attribute tables, as well as reference layers containing physical and cultural features (such as hydrography, railroads and power transmission lines) from the NGD.

The SDI supports a wide range of census operations, such as the maintenance and delineation of the boundaries of standard geographic areas (including the automated delineation of dissemination

blocks and population centres) and geocoding. The SDI is also the source for generating many geography products for the 2011 Census, such as cartographic boundary files and road network files.

Spatial data quality elements

Spatial data quality elements provide information on the fitness for use of a spatial database by describing why, when and how the data are created, and how accurate the data are. The elements include an overview describing the purpose and usage, as well as specific quality elements reporting on the lineage, positional accuracy, attribute accuracy, logical consistency and completeness. This information is provided to users for all spatial data products disseminated for the census.

Standard Geographical Classification

The Standard Geographical Classification (SGC) 2011 is Statistics Canada's main classification of geographic areas in Canada. It is designed to classify statistical information by geographic areas. The classification consists of four levels: geographical regions of Canada, provinces and territories, census divisions (such as counties and regional municipalities) and census subdivisions (such as municipalities). The four geographic levels are hierarchically related; a seven-digit code is used to show this relationship.

Statistical Area Classification

The Statistical Area Classification (SAC) groups census subdivisions according to whether they are a component of a census metropolitan area, a census agglomeration or a census metropolitan influenced zone (MIZ). The MIZ classifies all CSDs in provinces and territories that are outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations.

The Statistical Area Classification is a variant of the Standard Geographical Classification (SGC). Census subdivisions (CSDs) form the lowest level of the classification variant. The next level consists of individual census metropolitan areas (CMAs), census agglomerations (CAs) and census metropolitan influenced zones (MIZs). The highest level consists of three categories that cover all of the land mass of Canada:

- census metropolitan areas
- census agglomerations
- outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations.

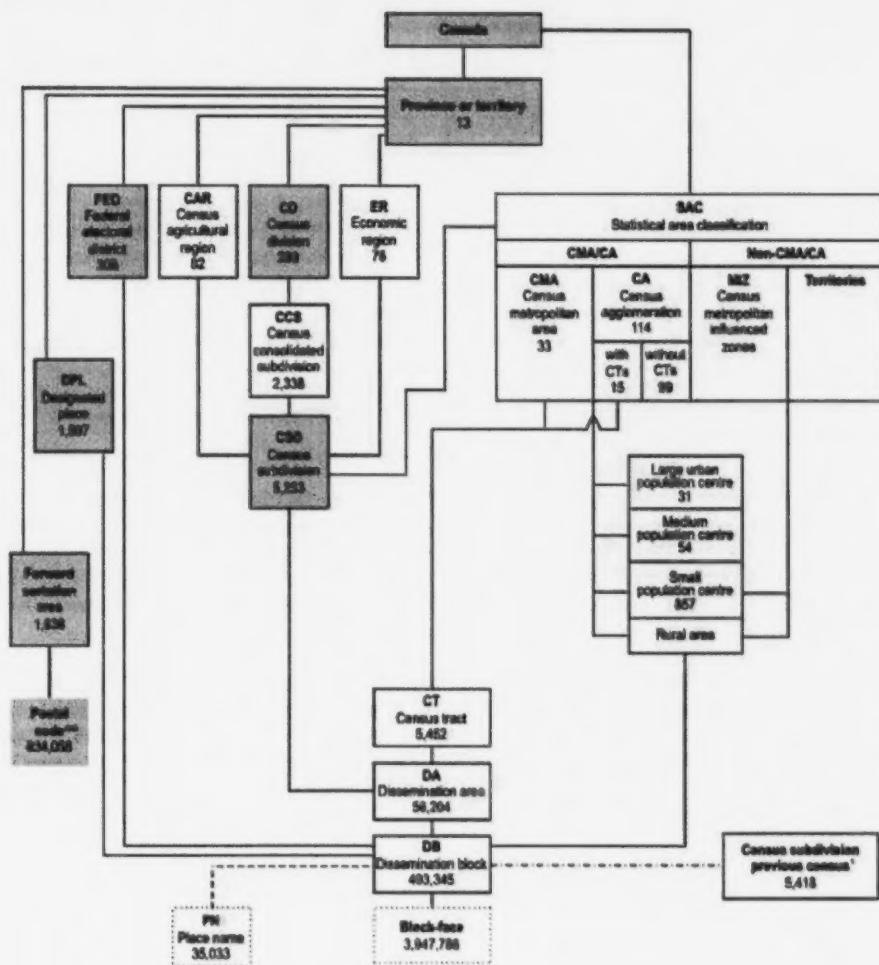
The SAC provides unique numeric identification (codes) for these hierarchically-related geographic areas. It was established for the purpose of reporting statistics.

Thematic map

A thematic map shows the spatial distribution of one or more specific data themes for selected geographic areas. The map may be qualitative in nature (e.g., predominant farm types) or quantitative (e.g., percentage population change).

Appendix B Hierarchy of standard geographic units for dissemination, 2011 Census

Figure B.1 Hierarchy of standard geographic units for dissemination, 2011 Census



1. A best fit linkage is created between the previous census CSDs and the current census dissemination blocks to facilitate historical data retrieval.

- Administrative area
- Statistical area
- Polygon
- Representative point
- Best fit linkage
- Linkage using point-in-polygon process

Sources: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census of Population; Canada Post Corporation, May 2011.

Appendix C Geographic units by province and territory, 2011 Census

Table C.1 Geographic units by province and territory, 2011 Census

Geographic unit	Canada 2006	Canada 2011	NL	P.E.I.	NS	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Y.T.	N.W.T.	N.L.
Federal electoral district (2003 Representation Order)	308	308	7	4	11	10	75	106	14	14	28	36	1	1	1
Economic region	76	76	4	1	5	5	17	11	8	6	8	8	1	1	1
Census agricultural region	82	82	3	3	5	4	14	5	12	20	8	8	0	0	0
Census division	268	293	11	3	18	15	96	49	23	18	19	29	1	6	3
Census consolidated subdivision	2,341	2,338	89	68	43	151	1,005	316	126	300	77	153	1	6	3
Census subdivision (CSD)	5,418	5,253	376	113	99	273	1,265	574	287	969	436	743	37	41	31
CSD dissolutions (Jan. 2, 2006 to Jan. 1, 2011)	221	...	3	0	1	6	13	13	13	26	19	126	0	1	0
CSD incorporations (Jan. 2, 2006 to Jan. 1, 2011)	...	56	2	0	0	3	4	2	3	1	1	33	2	5	0
Designated place	1,289	1,507	183	0	66	167	106	114	97	194	261	319	1	0	0
Census metropolitan area	33	33	1	0	1	2	6	15	1	2	2	4	0	0	0
Census agglomeration (CA)	111	114	3	2	4	5	25	28	4	7	16	21	1	1	0
CA with census tracts	15	15	0	0	0	1	3	4	0	0	3	4	0	0	0
CA without census tracts	96	99	3	2	4	4	22	24	4	7	13	17	1	1	0
Census tract	5,076	5,452	47	0	93	102	1,371	2,273	173	109	573	711	0	0	0
Small population centre (1,000 to 29,999)	811	857	29	6	36	30	224	237	42	59	101	87	1	3	7
Medium population centre (30,000 to 99,999)	54	54	0	1	1	2	13	19	1	2	6	9	0	0	0
Large urban population centre (100,000 or more)	29	31	1	0	1	1	6	14	1	2	2	4	0	0	0
Place name	21,411	36,033	1,836	709	3,138	2,679	6,965	8,091	1,839	2,687	3,117	3,528	195	153	76
Dissemination area	54,626	56,204	1,071	293	1,645	1,454	13,622	19,964	2,179	2,467	5,711	7,582	68	98	50
Dissemination block	478,831	493,345	8,732	3,573	15,842	15,415	109,456	132,777	30,471	51,610	66,332	55,529	1,369	1,492	758
Block-face	3,739,041	3,947,796	81,868	27,060	155,484	136,411	842,962	1,003,813	201,005	362,236	525,180	577,975	13,036	15,612	6,122
Forward sortation area	1,625	1,638	35	7	77	111	418	526	64	48	153	190	3	3	3
Postal code ⁰⁰¹	805,640	834,056	10,878	3,316	27,852	58,617	212,162	276,844	24,568	21,923	80,948	115,436	968	516	29

... not applicable

1. Census metropolitan areas, census agglomerations, large urban population centres and small population centres crossing provincial boundaries are counted in both provinces, and, therefore, do not add up to the national total.

Sources: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census of Population; Canada Post Corporation, May 2011.

Appendix D Census subdivision types by province and territory, 2011 Census

Table D.1 Census subdivision types by province and territory, 2011 Census

Census subdivision type		Canada	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Y.T.	N.W.T.	Nvt.
		5,253	376	113	99	273	1,285	574	287	959	435	743	37	41	31
C	City / Cité	6	...	...	...	4	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
CC	Chartered community	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...
CG	Community government	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...
CN	Crown colony / Colonie de la couronne	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
COM	Community	33	...	33	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
CT	Canton (municipalité de)	45	...	...	...	...	45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
CU	Cantons unis (municipalité de)	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
CV	City / Ville	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
CY	City	149	3	2	...	4	...	46	9	16	17	49	1	1	1
DM	District municipality	52	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52	...	...	...
HAM	Hamlet	36	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	10	24
ID	Improvement district	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...
IGD	Indian government district	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
IM	Island municipality	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
IRI	Indian reserve / Réserve indienne	961	3	4	25	18	27	139	75	168	81	419	...	2	...
LGD	Local government district	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
LOT	Township and royalty	67	...	67	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
M	Municipality / Municipalité	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
MD	Municipal district	76	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	64	...	...	...	...
MÉ	Municipalité	619	...	...	...	...	619	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
MU	Municipality	54	...	...	...	...	...	54	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
NH	Northern hamlet	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	...	...	...
NL	Nisga'a land	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
NO	Unorganized / Non organisé	137	...	...	...	...	96	16	10	2	...	...	4	6	3
NV	Northern village	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	...	...	...
P	Parish / Paroisse (municipalité de)	150	...	...	...	150	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
PE	Paroisse (municipalité de)	179	...	...	...	...	179	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
RCR	Rural community / Communauté rurale	4	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
RDA	Regional district electoral area	158	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	158	...	...	...
RG	Region	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Table D.1 Census subdivision types by province and territory, 2011 Census (continued)

Census subdivision type		Canada	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Y.T.	N.W.T.	Nvt.
RGM	Regional municipality	4	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
RM	Rural municipality	413	...	...	...	...	...	...	117	296	...	...	...	...	...
RV	Resort village	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	...	...	...	...	...
S-É	Indian settlement / Établissement indien	28	...	...	...	...	6	5	4	1	4	3	5	...	...
SA	Special area	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...
SC	Subdivision of county municipality / Subdivision municipalité de comté	28	...	...	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
SÉ	Settlement / Établissement	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	...	...
SET	Settlement	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	3
SG	Self-government / Autonomie gouvernementale	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...
SM	Specialized municipality	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...
SNO	Subdivision of unorganized / Subdivision non organisée	92	92	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
SV	Summer village	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51	...	...	...	...
T	Town	743	277	7	31	13	...	88	51	147	108	14	3	4	...
TC	Terres réservées aux Cris	8	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TI	Terre inuite	12	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TK	Terres réservées aux Naskapis	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TL	Teslin land	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
TP	Township	207	...	...	...	...	...	207	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TV	Town / Ville	15	...	...	...	14	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
V	Ville	222	...	...	...	...	222	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
VC	Village cri	8	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
VK	Village naskapi	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
VL	Village	550	...	...	...	66	45	11	19	266	95	43	4	1	...
VN	Village nordique	14	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

... not applicable

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census of Population.